



Theatre Organ Group

Bob Foreman · November 20 at 11:22 PM · 🌐

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I am writing a photo-essay about the saga of the Atlanta Fox 1929 Moller organ console, which was gutted and made electronic by AE Schlueter between February and December, 2020 at a cost of about \$250,000. My question is, what would it have cost for a "complete console restoration, as built"? AE Schlueter won't say. Please direct confidential replies to my email address lovethatbob13@gmail.com. All the documentation and photos I could find are at this link: [\[\[https://archive.org/.../2020-organ-destruction\]\]](https://archive.org/.../2020-organ-destruction)

(After the book and 2020 organ destruction, Moller's feedback was 80%?)

All comments ▼



Grant Chapman

The customer got what they wanted.

1d Like Reply

2 👍



Bob Foreman

And you also are a customer of AE Schlueter it seems.

1d Like Reply



Reply to Grant Chapman



David Yackman

The Fox has spent lots of money to ensure that Mighty Mo is playable and presentable to fans for the next 100 years which is something that many theaters with organs are not doing.

Anything that was removed/replaced in the console was crated up and returned to the Fox for future use or historic reference. So, in theory, the console's original insides could be reinstalled, but the internal upgrades have made the instrument easier to play and easier to maintain, so there's little chance of it ever going back in.

1d Like Reply

3 👍❤️



Bob Foreman

Interesting insight from the President of the Atlanta ATOS.

1d Like Reply



Reply to David Yackman



Luke Staisiunas

Reach out to any firms who have successfully restored large and complex tripper actions to full reliability and ask them.

1d Like Reply

4 👍

1d Like Reply

4

Bryan Parnell

Disclaimer, I'm not an organ builder, but I'm an electro-mechanical engineer, project and program manager, and self proclaimed organ nut.

I have discussed pneumatic console restoration with a couple organ builders familiar with theatre organs as I wanted an appropriate insurance value for my console. I also have insight into how much expense and effort the previous owner of my Wurlitzer put into restoring a 3 manual Wurlitzer pneumatic console, including looking over all of the invoices.

Depending on how much of the original internals are available for this hypothetical restoration, and the precision of being period correct, the cost could vary substantially. Do you want cloth wiring? Do you want to still use a modern relay or recreate setter boards and everything? Do you want a pneumatic relay?

No matter what it would be several hundred thousand of dollars, if not well over a million if many original components required replication from drawings. If exact material selection is needed and you want it to look like it just rolled off the line new down to the wiring colors and braid style, which would require truly bespoke components, it could easily be several million for the restoration by my guess.

I was told it would be \$250,000 or more to recreate, from scratch (with a modern relay, modern manuals, and modern pneumatic materials), my heavily carved and one-off (unique size and features) 3 manual pneumatic Wurlitzer console with all new parts. Over half of that sum was replicating all of the originals _as-new_, such as proper lead tubing, manifolds made from scratch, all new contacts, new replica Wurlitzer manuals, pedals, etc.

Jack Woodward

So why not tell us what your real complaint is?

Seems like a fantastic Moller pipe organ has returned to full operability, with modern memory. And you think that's bad?

1d Like Reply

3

Grant Chapman

Jack Woodward They didn't do it his way, of course he didn't pay to get his way, so he defamed them.

1d Like Reply

Jack Woodward

Grant Chapman Yep. Some folks can't see past their own nose.

22h Like Reply

Reply to Grant Chapman

👍 😊 📷 🗨️ 🗨️

Reply to Jack Woodward

👍 😊 📷 🗨️ 🗨️

Stephen Hogger

An awful lot more!

7h Like Reply